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In justice to the life-long labors of the late Professor W. C. Sabine, now gathered into a volume of Collected Papers on Acoustics (Harvard University Press), it should be said that the practical problem of predicting the acoustics of an ordinary auditorium in advance of its construction, or of correcting one already built, was solved by Professor Sabine some twenty years ago. The essential feature to be considered in such a problem is the reverberation and Sabine's papers on this subject are full and complete. Other acoustic questions are, of course, sometimes involved such as the transmission of sound through walls, the effect of resonance, etc. Several of these had also been the subject of prolonged experimental investigation by Professor Sabine at the Jefferson Physical Laboratory at Harvard but some of the results were withheld until the work could be completed. His untimely death interrupted this program, and since then the work has been continued here and at the Acoustical Laboratories at Riverbank, Illinois, under the direction of Dr. Paul E. Sabine, as described in Mr. Munby's article in *Nature*, October 28, 1922.

Architects in this country have become aware of the importance of Sabine's results and scores of cases could be cited in which the application of the principles worked out by him has led to complete success. The opinion that "Architects are still unable to predict with certainty the acoustic properties of the halls and chambers they design" implies a lack of respect for Sabine's profoundly accurate and thorough work which I am sure no one will maintain who has taken the trouble to acquaint himself with the subject.

THEODORE LYMAN,  
*Director*

JEFFERSON PHYSICAL LABORATORY,  
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

#### AUSTRIAN SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: The present financial difficulties of scientific and technical journals have no doubt come to the attention of many readers of SCIENCE. I am tempted to call their attention to a specific case by quoting

a recent letter from William Ford Upson, American trade commissioner in Vienna:

On a pathetic appeal of Professor Wilhelm Exner, an eminent Austrian scientist, president of the Technisches Versuchsamts, I am sending to the Bureau of Standards, with my compliments, the *Mitteilungen des Technischen Versuchsamtes* for one year. The publication is in sore straits for lack of funds and its ambition is to get 100 foreign subscriptions at \$1.00 per year each, to enable it to continue publication, but its efforts have proved unavailing except that I am sending out a few copies at my own expense. Could you help in the good work in any way?

The Bureau of Standards is already a subscriber to this publication, but I trust that the above appeal will put other research laboratories or libraries on the subscription list.

WILLIAM F. MEGGERS

BUREAU OF STANDARDS

#### AN APPEAL

ONE hundred Russian university and professional men, mostly scientists, many of them internationally famous, recently exiled from Russia by the Soviet government, are in Berlin in serious circumstances. Local charity is housing and feeding them, but they lack sufficient clothing, shoes and pocket money to get through the winter without acute distress. An appeal has come to the American Relief Administration for one thousand dollars to provide some relief (averaging only \$10 a man) for these exiles. Unfortunately all of the A. R. A. funds must be spent for relief inside of Russia. The appeal has been turned over to me. Will the scientific men of America help these suffering scientific men of Russia?

A generous friend, Princess Cantacuzene, of Washington, has given me one half (\$500) of the sum needed. I shall be glad to be one of fifty to give \$10 each, or one of one hundred to give \$5 each, to make up the other half. I will undertake to receive the gifts and send personal receipts for them, and later obtain and publish in SCIENCE a blanket receipt from Berlin for the whole amount received and sent over-seas.

VERNON KELLOGG

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.